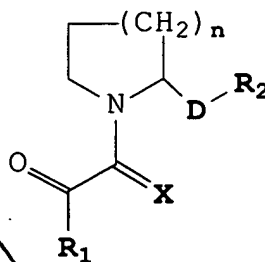


7. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [N-heterocyclic ring] compound is [a compound having the] of formula (I):



where

n is 1-3;

X is either O or S;

R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> straight or branched chain alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> straight or branched chain alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, or heterocycle;

D is a bond, or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> straight or branched chain alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl; and

R<sub>2</sub> is a carboxylic acid or a carboxylic acid isostere;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or solvate thereof.

Subst B<sub>3</sub>

11 The method of claim 7, wherein the [N-heterocyclic ring] compound is selected from the group consisting of: (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-hydroxymethyl pyrrolidine; (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-pyrrolidinetetrazole; (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-pyrrolidinecarbonitrile; (2S)-1-(1,2-